

ENGLISH TEST

35 Minutes—50 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to each question. If you think the original version is best, choose “No Change.”

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

The Legacy of Choctaw Stickball

[1]

Every summer at the Choctaw Indian Fair in central Mississippi, hundreds of men, women, and children gather to take part in the fair’s main event: the Choctaw World Series of Stickball. [A] This multiday tournament in summer celebrates the fast-paced, aggressive game of stickball (also called *toli* or *ishtaboli*), possibly the oldest sport in North America. Players come not only for the sport but also for the sense of community that stickball affords.

[2]

In stickball, players work to move the towa—(ball)—down the field to their opponents’ end, where a narrow twelve-foot-high post stands. [B] To catch, carry, and throw the *towa*, they hold two *kabocca*, these are sticks made of hardwood with a netted scoop at one end.

1. Which choice is least redundant in context?

- A. No Change
- B. multiday tournament in Mississippi
- C. annual multiday tournament
- D. multiday tournament

2. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- F. No Change
- G. *towa*, (ball),
- H. *towa* (ball)
- J. *towa*, ball

3. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- A. No Change
- B. these sticks consist
- C. they’re sticks made
- D. sticks made

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Kabocca are used to catch and throw the ball.

Players score a point by either touching the post⁴ while carrying the *towa* or launching the *towa* and hitting the post.

[3]

Teams can be any size as long as both sides⁵ have the same number of players. In fact, the sport⁵ is nicknamed “the little brother of war” because communities frequently settled disputes by playing stickball instead of waging battle. These contests were fierce and physical, and there was almost no rules. The⁶ playing field had no boundaries, and the length of the

field varied greatly—sometimes a significant amount.⁷

[4]

Modern-day stickball has inherited the game’s intensity. True to the legacy of the game, players do not wear pads or helmets, also many play barefoot. However,⁸ there have been some changes. The game today is usually played on a football field. New rules have been added for safety. For example, only participants making a play on the *towa* are permitted to be tackled. [C]

[5]

[D] For the Native people at the Choctaw Indian Fair, stickball is much more than an exciting game; it’s a way to honor their heritage and keep it thriving. Through the centuries, stickball has remained a central part of Choctaw culture. Thomas Ben, the stickball commissioner, said, “This is us. This defines the Choctaw people.”

4. Which choice is least redundant in context?

- F. **No Change**
- G. The ball that players use is called the *towa*.
- H. The posts on the field are twelve feet high.
- J. **Delete** the underlined portion.

5. Given that all the choices are accurate, which one best introduces the paragraph?

- A. **No Change**
- B. The first written record of Choctaw stickball was an account of a game that occurred around 1729.
- C. In the tournament, winners are crowned from men’s, women’s, and youth divisions.
- D. Historically, stickball played an important role in resolving conflicts.

6. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- F. **No Change**
- G. has been hardly any
- H. were almost no
- J. was hardly any

7. Given that all the choices are accurate, which one most clearly uses specific details to support the sentence’s claim about stickball playing fields?

- A. **No Change**
- B. an important factor in how the games were played.
- C. from one hundred feet to five miles.
- D. which affected spectators.

8. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- F. **No Change**
- G. in addition,
- H. and
- J. **Delete** the underlined portion.

Questions 9 and 10 ask about the preceding passage as a whole.

9. The writer wants to add the following sentence to the essay:

Players cannot touch the ball with their hands.

The sentence would most logically be placed at:

- A. Point A in Paragraph 1.
- B. Point B in Paragraph 2.
- C. Point C in Paragraph 4.
- D. Point D in Paragraph 5.

10. Suppose the writer's primary purpose had been to provide an overview of a sport. Would this essay accomplish that purpose?

- F. Yes, because it explains how Choctaw stickball is played and why it is important.
- G. Yes, because it argues that Choctaw stickball was a historical method of conflict resolution.
- H. No, because it instead describes the Choctaw Indian Fair, where the World Series of Stickball is played.
- J. No, because it instead focuses on the reasons the World Series of Stickball was created.

PASSAGE II

The Keret House

[1] Szczęsny began designing the Keret House,

today likely the narrowest building in the world.

[2] While walking through Warsaw's Wola

district, Polish architect Jakub Szczęsny

¹¹

noticed a small gap between two buildings—

one not particularly tall, the other a contemporary,

¹²

concrete apartment building. [3] He imagined

transforming the space into a functional building

that would physically link two different eras. 13

Named to honor writer Etgar Keret, this

impossibly slim house is only about four feet

across at its widest point. Still, it has most of the

features of a traditional house. The house contains a

one-foot-wide dining table and chairs and a narrow bed.

11. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- A. No Change
- B. district, Polish architect, Jakub Szczęsny
- C. district Polish architect, Jakub Szczęsny,
- D. district Polish architect Jakub Szczęsny

12. Given that all the choices are accurate, which one sets up a direct contrast regarding the age of the two buildings?

- F. No Change
- G. a pre-World War II brick rooming house,
- H. located on the corner of Zelazna Street,
- J. being used as a warehouse,

13. Which sequence of sentences makes this paragraph most logical?

- A. No Change
- B. 1, 3, 2
- C. 2, 3, 1
- D. 3, 2, 1

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Storage areas, kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom are compressed to fit into a spread of space over two floors.

The building is primarily a working studio for artists in residence selected by Szczyński and Keret. Artists apply for a short stay, as Keret explains it, use the space as “a portal to all kinds of artistic initiatives.” Since its opening in 2012, the Keret House has hosted several visitors from around the world, including photographers, writers, and filmmakers.

14. Which choice most precisely conveys the narrowness of the space?

F. No Change
G. sample
H. sliver
J. speck

15. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

A. No Change
B. stay and,
C. stay;
D. stay

PASSAGE III

Retire the Penny

During the early twentieth century, many goods cost a few pennies or less. Candy lovers could buy a gumball or Tootsie Roll for a penny; moviegoers could watch a reel of a Charlie Chaplin film for a penny or two. Today, though, with the cumulative effects of inflation, the penny has almost zero purchasing power. Think about it: when’s the last time you bought something for a penny? Although many of us harbor fond memories of collecting pennies in a piggy bank, it’s time to do the practical thing: retire the US penny.

16. The writer is considering revising the underlined portion to the following:

still gather pennies in change trays,

Given that the information is accurate, should the writer make this revision?

- F. Yes, because the revision more clearly suggests that pennies, in bulk, still have at least some value.
G. Yes, because the revision more clearly suggests that nostalgia is unrelated to the purchasing power of the penny.
H. No, because the original more clearly suggests that nostalgia may be hindering the retirement of the penny.
J. No, because the original more clearly suggests that pennies would have little to no sentimental value if they were retired.

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[1] Producing and distributing pennies isn't cheap.
 [2] And in that year alone, the Mint made nearly six and a half billion pennies, costing the US over 170 million dollars. [3] In 2022, the US Mint spent 2.72 cents to put each penny into circulation. [17]

Economics professor Robert Whaples cites another problem: the so-called penny tax, which is really a tax on time. When cashiers make change for a cash purchase, they often reach, into the registers' penny trays and count out one to four cents. While the time it takes to do this may

seem trivial, each year, billions of cash transactions are made annually. These penny taxes, in aggregate, result in over 120 billion hours when cashiers (and consumers) could be completing more meaningful tasks.

Proponents of pennies—often lobbyists for the mining of zinc, zinc being the primary component of pennies— argue that if the penny were eliminated, consumers

would pay more for goods. [21] But in Canada, where the penny was eliminated in 2013, this hasn't been a problem.

17. Which sequence of sentences presents the writer's argument most logically?

- A. No Change
- B. 1, 3, 2
- C. 2, 3, 1
- D. 3, 1, 2

18. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- F. No Change
- G. reach, into the register's
- H. reach into the registers
- J. reach into the registers'

19. Which choice is least redundant in context?

- A. No Change
- B. billions of cash transactions occur each year when physical money is exchanged for goods.
- C. on a yearly basis, billions of cash transactions occur annually.
- D. billions of cash transactions are made each year.

20. If the writer were to delete the underlined portion (adjusting the punctuation as needed), the paragraph would primarily lose:

- F. a suggestion that many proponents of keeping the penny in circulation may be motivated by self-interest.
- G. an indication of the amount of money made by zinc miners when the penny is in circulation.
- H. an explanation of how zinc mining affects the prices that consumers pay for goods.
- J. a summary of the argument made by many proponents of pennies for keeping the penny in circulation.

21. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence:

Consistently, research shows that Americans respond negatively when prices increase due to inflation.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A. Yes, because it undermines the penny proponents' argument that eliminating the penny would cause consumers to pay more for goods.
- B. Yes, because it cites research that strongly suggests most Americans favor the elimination of the penny.
- C. No, because it is unrelated to the writer's rebuttal of the argument made by proponents of pennies.
- D. No, because it supports the penny proponents' argument that consumers would have access to more goods if the penny were eliminated.

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Canadian merchants round each cash purchase to the nearest nickel. If a hair comb costs \$1.02, consumers pay a dollar. If it costs \$1.03, they pay \$1.05. Studies have shown that its a wash; overall, consumers pay no more or
no less than ²² they did when the penny was in circulation.

²²
Bills for retiring the penny have been floating around Congress for decades. Whether out of nostalgia

or fear of change, lawmakers have been disinclined to
execute a proposed course of action. ²³ But the value of
²³

today's penny is defective. By retiring the penny,
²⁴

Congress would cut costs at the US Mint while
also giving cashiers some time back at work. ²⁵
²⁵

22. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- F. **No Change**
- G. it's a wash; overall, consumers pay no more or no less than
- H. it's a wash; overall, consumers pay no more or no less then
- J. its a wash; overall, consumers pay no more or no less than

23. Which choice most effectively maintains the essay's tone?

- A. **No Change**
- B. have been reluctant to act.
- C. haven't closed the deal.
- D. haven't ratified a thing.

24. Which choice is clearest and most precise in context?

- F. **No Change**
- G. negligible.
- H. remote.
- J. invalid.

25. Which choice provides the most effective conclusion by restating the main claims of the essay's argument?

- A. **No Change**
- B. reduce pollution caused by zinc mining while also increasing the purchasing power of the US dollar.
- C. free up time for workers at the US Mint while also increasing the bargaining power of cashiers.
- D. reduce "coin clutter" while also simplifying cash and noncash transactions.

PASSAGE IV

Under the Mediterranean

[1]

From the time Honor Frost made her first amateur underwater dive in the late 1940s, she was committed to spending as much time as possible exploring. [A] She was, consequently, thrilled to be invited by professional divers to join the excavation of a first-century Roman shipwreck in the Mediterranean Sea in 1957. But what Frost witnessed during that excavation shocked her.

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The team, too, took little care with how they handled artifacts and little note of where they found them.

A talented illustrator, Frost understood that the excavation of shipwrecks would benefit from the same systematic approach used on land. She teamed up with fellow underwater explorers Peter Throckmorton and George Bass, and the field of maritime archaeology was born.

[2]

Frost made her first major discovery in 1960 with the excavation of a Bronze Age Phoenician ship that dated to 1200 BCE. The historical implications of the find were significant. Prior to the identification of the ship and its' contents, prevailing wisdom held that Bronze Age maritime commerce was dominated exclusively by the

Mycenaean Greeks. [B] In fact, most of them believed that the Phoenicians didn't sail the Mediterranean at all until the Iron Age. The work of Frost and her colleagues fundamentally changed that understanding. [C]

[3]

Beginning in 1971, Frost directed the excavation of a 2,200-year-old Punic (or late Phoenician) warship off the coast of Sicily. The ship, which Frost surmised may have been sunk in a battle with a Roman vessel, was the first war galley of antiquity ever discovered.

26. Which transition word, if any, is most logical in context?

- F. No Change
- G. team, nevertheless,
- H. team, however,
- J. team

27. Given that all the choices are accurate, which one most effectively leads the reader from the preceding sentence to the information that follows?

- A. No Change
- B. Thanks to experience she'd gained on a formal archaeological land dig,
- C. As one who rarely traveled without her trusty oxygen tank,
- D. With an interest in the performing arts,

28. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- F. No Change
- G. their
- H. it's
- J. its

29. Which choice is clearest and most grammatically acceptable in context?

- A. No Change
- B. those individuals
- C. scholars
- D. they

The excavation took several years. [D] During that

30

time, as Frost's team recovered artifacts from the wreck,
painstakingly recording and publishing their findings along
the way. When the excavation was complete, the remnants

31

of the ship was set to be restored and reconstructed for
display in a Sicilian museum. For Frost and the field of

32

maritime archaeology, all at once, history was being
revealed and made at the same time.

33

Questions 34 and 35 ask about the preceding passage as a whole.

34. The writer is considering adding the following sentence to the essay:

A member of the first civilian diving club in the world, Frost was fond of saying that "time spent on the surface is time wasted."

If the writer were to add this sentence, it would most logically be placed at:

- F. Point A in Paragraph 1.
- G. Point B in Paragraph 2.
- H. Point C in Paragraph 2.
- J. Point D in Paragraph 3.

30. Which choice is least redundant in context?

- F. **No Change**
- G. excavation of the 2,200-year-old warship
- H. excavation off the coast of Sicily
- J. excavation, which began in 1971,

31. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- A. **No Change**
- B. with Frost's team recovering
- C. Frost's team recovering
- D. Frost's team recovered

32. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- F. **No Change**
- G. was ready to be
- H. were
- J. was

33. Which choice is least redundant in context?

- A. **No Change**
- B. history was simultaneously
- C. history was concurrently
- D. history was

35. Suppose the writer's primary purpose had been to explore how a particular field of study has changed over the years. Would this essay accomplish that purpose?

- A. Yes, because in addition to discussing the origins of maritime archaeology, it also explains recent controversies in the field.
- B. Yes, because in addition to Frost, it mentions some of the other founders of maritime archaeology.
- C. No, because it focuses instead on Frost and some of her most important contributions to maritime archaeology.
- D. No, because it focuses instead on Frost's accomplishments prior to her work in maritime archaeology.

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PASSAGE V

A Birthplace of Stars

The winter night I attempted to see the famed Orion Nebula, I didn't expect to succeed. I was an inexperienced astronomer peering through light-polluted skies. But I was eager to test my new telescope's capabilities, and the nebula is said to be one of the greatest sights in the night sky. So I bundled up, set out my scope to cool down (its mirrors must adjust to the cold air for optimal viewing), and scanned for the constellation Orion.

I had prepared for this night by studying constellations in my astronomy books. Orion appears as a hunter who, in some mythologies, is fighting Taurus the Bull, another constellation. [A] Even in bright skies, the telltale three stars marking Orion's belt are easy to spot. [B] I knew to follow the belt to Orion's sword, a dim line of stars extending south. [C] The middle of these is actually not a star but a nebula, the Great Orion Nebula, a birthplace of stars. [D] When gravity causes the gas and dust to collapse, forming stars. The

nebula, is home to thousands of young stars, is

often called a galactic "nursery." 39

36. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- F. No Change
- G. astronomer, peering through,
- H. astronomer: peering through
- J. astronomer peering through,

37. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- A. No Change
- B. collapse to form stars.
- C. collapse, stars form.
- D. collapse and form stars.

38. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- F. No Change
- G. nebula is home to thousands of young stars, and
- H. nebula, home to thousands of young stars, and
- J. nebula, home to thousands of young stars,

39. The writer wants to add the following sentence to the preceding paragraph:

Located 1,300 light-years from Earth, the nebula is a massive cloud of gas and dust.

This sentence would most logically be placed at:

- A. Point A.
- B. Point B.
- C. Point C.
- D. Point D.

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I centered my scope where the nebula should be, inserted my lowest-powered eyepiece, and leaned in to look. I just made out a dull smudge. I couldn't get much improvement even when I adjusted the focuser.

Coincidentally, I switched to a higher-powered eyepiece and tried a trick I'd read about for viewing faint objects: using averted vision.

The principle of averted vision states that the eye can often see distant objects better by looking to one side of them rather than directly at them. 41 I focused my eye on an area beside the smudge, and, sure enough, my peripheral vision yielded a far better view of the nebula's swirling clouds. I even saw the Trapezium

star cluster, illuminated by four bright young stars

nestled in the nebula like birds' eggs in a

nest. 44

40. Which transition word is most logical in context?

- F. No Change
- G. Similarly,
- H. Besides,
- J. So,

41. The writer is considering deleting the preceding sentence. Should the sentence be kept or deleted?

- A. Kept, because it elaborates on why the narrator is capable of using averted vision when looking at the night sky.
- B. Kept, because it explains the principle that allowed the narrator to see the nebula more clearly.
- C. Deleted, because it adds a level of technical detail that is inappropriate for the tone of the essay.
- D. Deleted, because it digresses from the main point of the paragraph.

42. Which choice is clearest and most precise in context?

- F. No Change
- G. emanated
- H. emulated
- J. eliminated

43. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- A. No Change
- B. bird's eggs
- C. birds eggs
- D. bird eggs'

44. Given that all the following sentences are accurate, which one, if added here, would best conclude the paragraph and the essay by referring back to the opening paragraph?

- F. The Trapezium star cluster was originally discovered in 1617 by Galileo, whom I'd read about extensively in my astronomy books.
- G. In addition to averted vision, it is also important to eliminate stray light and use the correct magnification when observing the night sky.
- H. Although my initial goal was to observe Orion's belt and sword, the constellation is also very useful as an aid to locating other constellations such as Taurus and Gemini.
- J. Observing these features made my winter trek outdoors worthwhile, teaching me that a change in focus is sometimes helpful to see more clearly.

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Question 45 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

45. Suppose the writer's goal had been to write an essay about a personal experience with astronomy. Would this essay accomplish that goal?
- A. Yes, because the narrator recounts several past adventures and challenges of using the telescope to view the night sky.
 - B. Yes, because the narrator describes a stargazing session from start to finish, from setting up the telescope to observing an actual constellation.
 - C. No, because it primarily focuses on the Orion Nebula and its process of star formation.
 - D. No, because it describes a universally used technique for viewing distant objects in the night sky.

PASSAGE VI

Robots Rock

Pittsburgh resident, Eric Singer, is a technologist who creates robotic instruments. ⁴⁶“Usually when I say musical robots, people think of humanoid robots that are playing musical instruments,” Singer says. But these robots are themselves the instruments, creating music in unexpected ways.

[1] One such instrument is the XyloBot, a robotic xylophone. [2] On a standard xylophone, a musician strikes bars with mallets to produce bright, sharp tones. [3] The XyloBot, however, needs no musician.

[4] Instead, the set of ⁴⁷mallets are built in, secured to the frame of the instrument and positioned such that each mallet hovers over its corresponding bar.

[5] Beneath the instrument's frame is a mass of wires that transmit electromagnetic currents to the mechanized parts that then move the mallets to strike.

46. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- F. **No Change**
- G. Pittsburgh, resident, Eric Singer,
- H. Pittsburgh resident, Eric Singer
- J. Pittsburgh resident Eric Singer

47. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?

- A. **No Change**
- B. mallet are
- C. mallets is
- D. mallet is

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

[6] A computer program controls the duration and strength of the currents, enabling the XyloBot to

play—get this—an entire song. 49

48

Singer has designed an array of robotic instruments—guitars, drums, keyboards, violins. His instruments have played alongside Grammy-winning artists onstage, and his work has been commissioned by premier art galleries.

48. Which choice most effectively maintains the essay's tone?

- F. **No Change**
- G. play an entire song—wow.
- H. play a whole entire song!
- J. play an entire song.

49. For the sake of the logic and cohesion of this paragraph, Sentence 3 should be placed:

- A. where it is now.
- B. after Sentence 1.
- C. after Sentence 4.
- D. after Sentence 5.

Question 50 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

50. Suppose the writer's primary purpose had been to describe a designer's inspiration that led to a new invention. Would this essay accomplish that purpose?

- F. Yes, because it provides specific details about Singer's background in art and technology that prompted him to create robotic instruments.
- G. Yes, because it suggests that Singer's robotic instruments have changed the way technologists have since designed robots.
- H. No, because it indicates that Singer's robotic instruments, while impressive, are not considered inventions because they produce the same sound as that of traditional instruments.
- J. No, because while it mentions Singer's love of robots and music, it is more focused on describing his artistry and the designs of his robotic instruments.

END OF TEST 1

STOP! DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.

Reading Scoring Key

Reading Number	Correct Answer	Correct (Mark 1)	Reporting Categories
1	A		CS
2	G		KID
3	B		KID
4	F		KID
5	C		KID
6	H		IKI
7	D		IKI
8	F		IKI
9	A		IKI
10	G		CS
11	C		CS
12	H		IKI
13	A		KID
14	J		KID
15	A		KID
16	H		CS
17	B		IKI
18	J		KID
19	B	Not Scored	—
20	J	Not Scored	—
21	B	Not Scored	—
22	G	Not Scored	—
23	A	Not Scored	—
24	F	Not Scored	—
25	B	Not Scored	—
26	F	Not Scored	—
27	C	Not Scored	—
28	J		KID
29	B		KID
30	H		KID
31	D		CS
32	F		KID
33	D		CS
34	F		CS
35	C		KID
36	G		CS

Reading Reporting Categories

(Capture raw scores/correct answers.)

Key Ideas & Details (KID) = ____ of 13

Craft & Structure (CS) = ____ of 8

Integration of Knowledge & Ideas (IKI) = ____ of 6

Total Reading Raw Score (KID + CS + IKI) = ____ of 27

Reading Scale Score Conversion Table

Use the Total Reading Raw Score from the previous table to find the scale score you could expect if you got that number correct on test day.

Reading Raw Score	Reading Scale Score	Reading Raw Score	Reading Scale Score
27	36	13	17
26	35	12	16
25	34	11	15
24	32	10	14
23	30	9	13
22	28	8	12
21	27	7	11
20	25	6	11
19	24	5	10
18	23	4	9
17	22	3	7
16	21	2	5
15	20	1	3
14	18	0	1

Reading Scale Score = ____

Calculating a Composite Score

An ACT test generates a single Composite score of 1–36. Compute the Composite score by averaging the three scale scores:

1. Add your English, Mathematics, and Reading scale scores. Enter this sum in the blanks below.
2. Divide the sum by 3. If the resulting number ends in a fraction, round it to the nearest whole number. (Round down any fraction less than one-half, except for averages lower than one; round up any fraction that is one-half or more. Also round up averages that are less than one.)
3. Enter this number in the blank below. This is your Composite score.

Composite of scale scores:

English Scale Score = ____

Mathematics Scale Score = ____

Reading Scale Score = ____

Sum of Scale Scores = ____

Composite score (sum ÷ 3) = ____

Note: If you left a test section completely blank and marked no items, do not list a scale score for that section and do not calculate a Composite score.

Scoring the Practice Writing Test

It's difficult to be objective about your own work. However, it's to your advantage to read your own writing critically, as doing so can help you grow as a writer and as a reader. It may also be helpful for you to give your practice essay to another reader, such as a classmate, parent, or teacher. To rate your essay, you and your reader(s) should review the guidelines and sample essays at <http://www.actstudent.org> and then use The ACT Writing Test Scoring Rubric, starting on the next page to assign your practice essay a score of 1 (low) through 6 (high) in each of the four writing domains (Ideas & Analysis, Development & Support, Organization, and Language Use).

Scoring Rubric

The rubric presents the standards by which your essay will be evaluated. Readers will use

this rubric to assign your essay four unique scores, one per writing domain. These are the six possible rubric scores:

Score 6: Responses demonstrate effective skill in writing an argumentative essay.

Score 5: Responses demonstrate well-developed skill in writing an argumentative essay.

Score 4: Responses demonstrate adequate skill in writing an argumentative essay.

Score 3: Responses demonstrate some developing skill in writing an argumentative essay.

Score 2: Responses demonstrate weak or inconsistent skill in writing an argumentative essay.

Score 1: Responses demonstrate little or no skill in writing an argumentative essay.

Because each domain receives its own score, the four scores you assign need not be identical. For example, you may find that your essay exhibits stronger skill in organization than in the development of ideas. In this case, you may determine that your essay should receive a higher score in Organization than in Development & Support.

Calculating Your Writing Score

The writing test section generates a single score of 2–12. Complete these steps to calculate your writing score:

1. Determine which score (range 1–6) in each of the four domains best describes the features of your writing.
2. Multiply each rubric score by 2 to get a score for each domain (range 2–12).
3. Add your four domain scores. Enter this sum of domain scores in the blank below (range 8–48).
4. Divide the sum by 4. If the resulting number ends in a fraction, round it to the nearest whole number. (Round down any fraction less than one-half; round up any fraction that is one-half or more.)

Writing test rubric and domain scores:

Ideas & Analysis = ____ x 2 = ____

Development & Support = ____ x 2 = ____

Organization = ____ x 2 = ____

Language Use = ____ x 2 = ____

Sum of domain scores = ____

Writing subject score (sum ÷ 4) = ____

The ACT Writing Test Scoring Rubric

Ideas & Analysis Domain

Rubric Score	Ideas & Analysis Scoring Standards
6	The writer generates an argument that critically engages with multiple perspectives on the given issue. The argument's thesis reflects nuance and precision in thought and purpose. The argument establishes and employs an insightful context for analysis of the issue and its perspectives. The analysis examines implications, complexities, tensions, and/or underlying values and assumptions.
5	The writer generates an argument that productively engages with multiple perspectives on the given issue. The argument's thesis reflects precision in thought and purpose. The argument establishes and employs a thoughtful context for analysis of the issue and its perspectives. The analysis addresses implications, complexities, tensions and/or underlying values and assumptions.
4	The writer generates an argument that engages with multiple perspectives on the given issue. The argument's thesis reflects clarity in thought and purpose. The argument establishes and employs a relevant context for analysis of the issue and its perspectives. The analysis recognizes implications, complexities, tensions, and/or underlying values and assumptions.
3	The writer generates an argument that responds to multiple perspectives on the given issue. The argument's thesis reflects some clarity in thought and purpose. The argument establishes a limited or tangential context for analysis of the issue and its perspectives. Analysis is simplistic or somewhat unclear.
2	The writer generates an argument that weakly responds to multiple perspectives on the given issue. The argument's thesis, if evident, reflects little clarity in thought and purpose. Attempts at analysis are incomplete, largely irrelevant, or consist primarily of restatement of the issue and its perspectives.
1	The writer fails to generate an argument that responds intelligibly to the task. The writer's intentions are difficult to discern. Attempts at analysis are unclear or irrelevant.

Development & Support Domain

Rubric Score	Development & Support Scoring Standards
6	Development of ideas and support for claims deepen insight and broaden context. An integrated line of skillful reasoning and illustration effectively conveys the significance of the argument. Qualifications and complications enrich and bolster ideas and analysis.
5	Development of ideas and support for claims deepen understanding. A mostly integrated line of purposeful reasoning and illustration capably conveys the significance of the argument. Qualifications and complications enrich ideas and analysis.
4	Development of ideas and support for claims clarify meaning and purpose. Lines of clear reasoning and illustration adequately convey the significance of the argument. Qualifications and complications extend ideas and analysis.
3	Development of ideas and support for claims are mostly relevant but are overly general or simplistic. Reasoning and illustration largely clarify the argument but may be somewhat repetitious or imprecise.
2	Development of ideas and support for claims are weak, confused, or disjointed. Reasoning and illustration are inadequate, illogical, or circular, and fail to fully clarify the argument.
1	Ideas lack development and claims lack support. Reasoning and illustration are unclear, incoherent, or largely absent.

Organization Domain

Rubric Score	Organization Scoring Standards
6	The response exhibits a skillful organizational strategy. The response is unified by a controlling idea or purpose, and a logical progression of ideas increases the effectiveness of the writer's argument. Transitions between and within paragraphs strengthen the relationships among ideas.
5	The response exhibits a productive organizational strategy. The response is mostly unified by a controlling idea or purpose, and a logical sequencing of ideas contributes to the effectiveness of the argument. Transitions between and within paragraphs consistently clarify the relationships among ideas.
4	The response exhibits a clear organizational strategy. The overall shape of the response reflects an emergent controlling idea or purpose. Ideas are logically grouped and sequenced. Transitions between and within paragraphs clarify the relationships among ideas.
3	The response exhibits a basic organizational structure. The response largely coheres, with most ideas logically grouped. Transitions between and within paragraphs sometimes clarify the relationships among ideas.
2	The response exhibits a rudimentary organizational structure. Grouping of ideas is inconsistent and often unclear. Transitions between and within paragraphs are misleading or poorly formed.
1	The response does not exhibit an organizational structure. There is little grouping of ideas. When present, transitional devices fail to connect ideas.

Language Use Domain

Rubric Score	Language Use Scoring Standards
6	The use of language enhances the argument. Word choice is skillful and precise. Sentence structures are consistently varied and clear. Stylistic and register choices, including voice and tone, are strategic and effective. While a few minor errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics may be present, they do not impede understanding.
5	The use of language works in service of the argument. Word choice is precise. Sentence structures are clear and varied often. Stylistic and register choices, including voice and tone, are purposeful and productive. While minor errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics may be present, they do not impede understanding.
4	The use of language conveys the argument with clarity. Word choice is adequate and sometimes precise. Sentence structures are clear and demonstrate some variety. Stylistic and register choices, including voice and tone, are appropriate for the rhetorical purpose. While errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics are present, they rarely impede understanding.
3	The use of language is basic and only somewhat clear. Word choice is general and occasionally imprecise. Sentence structures are usually clear but show little variety. Stylistic and register choices, including voice and tone, are not always appropriate for the rhetorical purpose. Distracting errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics may be present, but they generally do not impede understanding.
2	The use of language is inconsistent and often unclear. Word choice is rudimentary and frequently imprecise. Sentence structures are sometimes unclear. Stylistic and register choices, including voice and tone, are inconsistent and are not always appropriate for the rhetorical purpose. Distracting errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics are present, and they sometimes impede understanding.
1	The use of language fails to demonstrate skill in responding to the task. Word choice is imprecise and often difficult to comprehend. Sentence structures are often unclear. Stylistic and register choices are difficult to identify. Errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics are pervasive and often impede understanding.

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